



Swindon Village Primary School Prospectus 2023-2024



Learning from each other — achieving together

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Teachers have high expectations and provide work that is well matched to pupils' varying abilities and activities that are motivating and challenging.





*Pupils of all abilities make good progress
whatever their starting points.
Ofsted Statement*

Thank you for your interest in Swindon Village Primary School. I hope that you find our Prospectus both informative and useful.

We believe that to make the best of the opportunities our school has to offer, a positive collaboration between home and school is essential and that this partnership starts now with your first interest in us.

We strive to provide a welcoming, safe environment where the emphasis is on enjoyment as well as ensuring that each child reaches their full potential. High academic standards are, of course, important but we believe strongly in celebrating every success. At Swindon Village Primary School, we nurture well-rounded, confident children well equipped for their future.

We are a large popular school with the ability to provide a wide range of opportunities for our children both curricular and extra-curricular. However, as a village school we also pride ourselves in maintaining a personalised approach to learning – where the school is at the centre of the community and each child and their family plays a key part in our success.

We are all very proud of our school and would welcome the opportunity to show you around. Please contact us for appointment.

Geraint Mills
Head Teacher



Teaching & Learning TOGETHER..

At Swindon Village Primary School, we have a highly motivated staff, who see themselves as learners too.

We are continually striving to provide the best quality teaching and learning for every child in every class every day.



We believe children learn best when they are given opportunities to explore, investigate and learn through doing. We bring learning to life by linking our curriculum to the real world. This year, our topics have related to paintings, museum artefacts, problem solving and historical investigations. We believe exciting and interesting projects engage children so they learn in a fun, hands-on way.



‘The curriculum provides a particularly strong emphasis on developing pupils’ basic literacy and numeracy skills. This, along with pupils’ good behaviour, attitudes to learning and strong spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, ensures that they are well prepared for their future.’

Ofsted Statement

We also offer a range of specialist support for pupils who need extra help. These include catch-up programmes, reading recovery classes and a number of other support initiatives designed to provide children with a tailor made learning programme.

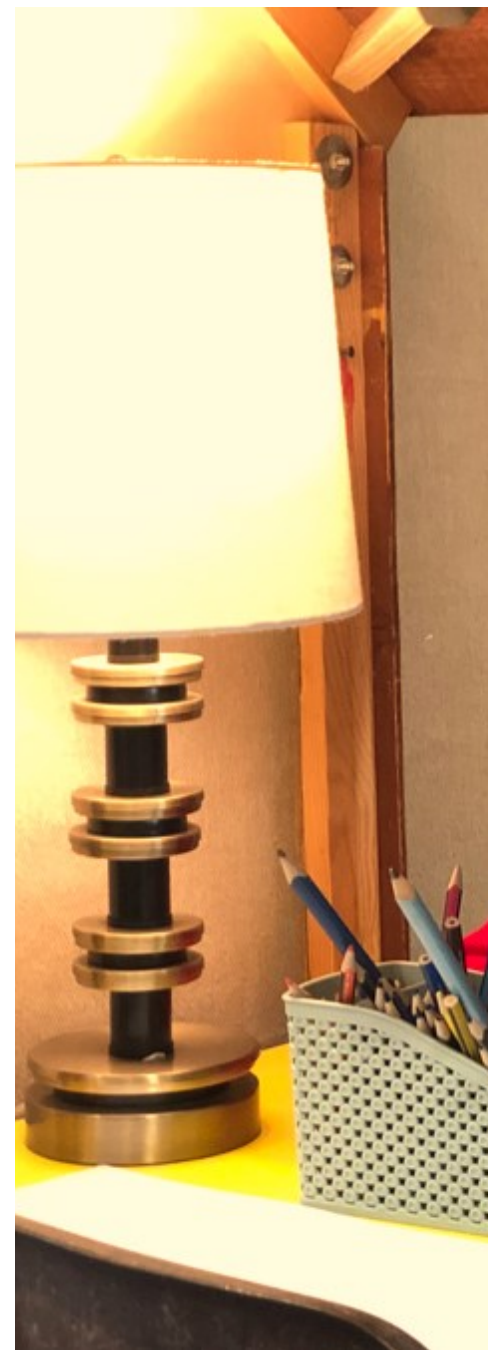


From the BEGINNING...

Right from the beginning of their time with us, our pupils are valued and their independence promoted. Each of them is unique and we learn so much from their diverse experiences.

Transition from early year settings into Reception and on to Year 1 is smooth thanks to a planned schedule of visits and carefully designed induction process. Key members of staff work with the children to ensure they feel happy and safe to move onto the next stage of their education.

Our child-centred approach uses practical real-life learning opportunities, so that from a very early age, they are learning problem solving and explorative skills, often through projects that stem from their own interests.



Because we monitor the achievements and progress of each pupil so closely, we are able to match learning opportunities to their individual needs. We believe in the uniqueness of each child and celebrate what they bring to us. We strive to enable each of them to reach their full potential.



Head Teacher



...Your child comes FIRST

We pride ourselves in putting children first. We make sure they all progress well, feel safe and are happy in school.

OfSTED says that at Swindon Village, 'Pupils behave well, have very positive attitudes and attend school regularly.' This is a testament to our strong support systems which ensure pupils feel secure and confident at school. We work hard to remove barriers to learning and have strong inclusion procedures which make sure we meet the needs of all pupils.



Admissions

Children may start school from the beginning of the school year in which their fifth birthday falls. All applications are handled directly by the Local Authority.

Parents of children who have registered an interest in joining our school are invited to an introductory meeting with the Head Teacher and Foundation Stage staff during Term 2 (November/December) of the previous year.

Once places are allocated, arrangements are made, in association with playgroups and other pre-school settings, for the children to visit the school in small groups. In June/July, our Foundation Stage teachers visit every child in their playgroup/nursery/home etc...

Initially, children attend on a part-time basis but are, normally, all in full-time by week 4.

Parents moving into the area, or considering sending their children to the school, are, in the first instance, invited to contact the Head Teacher to arrange a visit.

When applications for admission exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set out below, to decide which children to admit:

1. Children in Public Care (Looked After Children);
2. Children who have a sibling attending the school and who will continue to do so when the younger child is admitted;
3. Children with the strongest geographical claim, measured in a straight line from the Ordnance Survey address point of the child's home address (including flats) to the Ordnance Survey address point of the school, using the Local Authority's computerised measuring system, with those living closer to the school receiving the higher priority.

Further details of the school's policy for 2020 – 2021 Admissions are available from the school office or on the website.

Special Educational Needs (SEN)

We are committed to addressing the individual needs of all our children to ensure that they reach their full potential. Children who are identified as having special educational needs are given our full support to minimise or overcome any barriers

to learning. All children are continually monitored to ensure that teaching and learning matches individual needs. Children are supported in a variety of ways using resources from within our school and through partnerships with outside agencies.

In all these situations, it is vital that strong links are maintained with parents and they are given regular opportunities to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher and the school's Inclusion Manager, Mrs. S. O'Leary.

Quality and Equality of opportunity for all

At Swindon Village Primary School, we are committed to working for quality and equality of opportunity for all our pupils. We aim to ensure that all students have opportunities to develop specific skills or talents.

We recognise that some of our children may have academic abilities or specific talents which range well beyond the average. A wide range of strategies are employed to ensure all children have the chance to excel.

Educational Visits

The children are often taken on educational visits to enhance and enrich the curriculum. For many visits, parents will be asked to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of transport and/or admission. Pupils in Years 4 and 6 go on a residential visit. Year 4 spend two nights at The Dean Field Study Centre in the Forest of Dean and Year 6 children enjoy five days away in Pembrokeshire, Wales.



School Uniform

The school has a proud tradition of school uniform and we are most grateful for the continued support of parents. We believe that wearing school uniform ensures that the children are smart and gives them a sense of identity. It also makes life easier for parents. The school colours are red and white.

Boys Grey trousers/shorts
 White polo shirt
 School sweatshirt with SVPS logo preferred
 Grey/black socks
 black shorts for games / P.E.
 House SVPS T-Shirt for P.E.
 PE bag

Girls Grey pinafore dress, skirt or grey trousers/shorts
 White polo shirt
 School sweatshirt/cardigan with SVPS logo preferred
 Grey tights or white/grey socks
 Black shorts for games / P.E.
 House SVPS T-Shirt for P.E.
 PE bag



In the Summer, Girls may wear red and white checked dresses with white socks.

Flat, black closed-toe shoes are our preferred footwear. Trainers are unsuitable for wearing all day in school. We would prefer that parents don't send their children to school in open toed sandals.

P.E. and house polo shirts, sweatshirts and cardigans, Black shorts, are all available from the school office.



Absences

Good attendance and punctuality are important. Parents are requested to avoid keeping their children away from school for appointments that could otherwise be arranged for after school hours or holidays. Parents wishing their children to leave school early for a particular reason must send a written request to the class teacher.

Parents are asked to telephone school as early as possible on the first day of their child's absence. For longer periods of absence it is important to notify the school of the on-going cause and the likely date of return of your child. If the school has heard nothing regarding a child's absence the office will telephone home to check once the class register has been taken.

Holiday absence during term time is strongly discouraged as it disrupts children's learning. In exceptional circumstances, schools may agree up to 10 days leave in an academic year. Requests must be made in writing to the Head Teacher.

Breakfast/After School Club

An independent Breakfast and After School Club is runs on the school site. This provides care for children between 7.30am and 6.00pm. Details are available from the school.

Break Time Snacks

Fruit or vegetables may be brought for eating at playtime. Free fruit or vegetables are available in school for all children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One.

Water

Children are encouraged to bring water, in non-spill bottles for drinking in school. Water dispensers are available for the children to refill their bottles. In addition to this there are drinking fountains in both play-grounds. Plastic bottles are available for purchase from the school office.

School Meals and Milk

Children can either have a packed lunch or a cooked lunch. All lunches are eaten in the hall during which time the children are supervised by our team of midday supervisors.

Hot meals are cooked onsite by The School Dinner Company. The menu is published in advance and children may have a school meal on whatever day their parents wish.

For children having sandwiches, packed lunches should be brought in a named container with non-fizzy drinks in an unbreakable container. Sweets and chocolate bars should not be included. We support parents in providing their children with a balanced lunchbox.

Semi-skimmed milk is available for children to drink at morning break time. Milk is free for children under the age of five and can be purchased for older children. Details are available from the school office.

Free meals and milk are available for those who qualify for certain benefits – further information and application forms are available from the office.



Homework

At Swindon Village Primary School, we recognise the vital role that parents play in their children's learning. We strongly believe in the value of the home-school partnership of which our Homework Policy is an important element.

However, it is important that Homework does not become a source of confrontation or friction between parents and children. Homework is most successful when parents take a genuine interest, are supportive and organise the home environment so that effective home learning can take place.

At Swindon Village Primary School, we believe in providing a balance between the development of basic skills the importance of children developing as well-rounded individuals and have designed our Homework Policy to reflect this.

Whilst Homework is important, we believe that, at the primary school age, it should not be at the detriment of other activities that children may wish to participate in; such as Brownies, Cubs, sports activities and independent play.

Collective Worship

At Swindon Village Primary School we provide a daily act of worship in the form of an assembly. This may take place as a whole school, in classes, phases or houses. Within assemblies, there are opportunities for children to experience, appreciate and understand other world religions. Assemblies are broadly Christian based and focus on moral values and beliefs. Assemblies play an important role in fostering the school ethos, citizenship, good behaviour and a positive atmosphere.

Transfer to Secondary School



At the end of Year 6, pupils transfer to a range of secondary schools in the area including Cleeve School, Pittville School, All Saints' Academy and Winchcombe School.

Children may sit the admission tests for Pate's Grammar School and/or for the Gloucester Grammar Schools.

Visits are arranged during Term 6 to allow the children to familiarise themselves with their new school. Strong partnerships exist between our school and the various secondary schools and these assist our children with their transition.

We organise Information Evenings with each of the Secondary Head Teachers and our staff are happy to discuss the various secondary school options and address any concerns that parents may have.

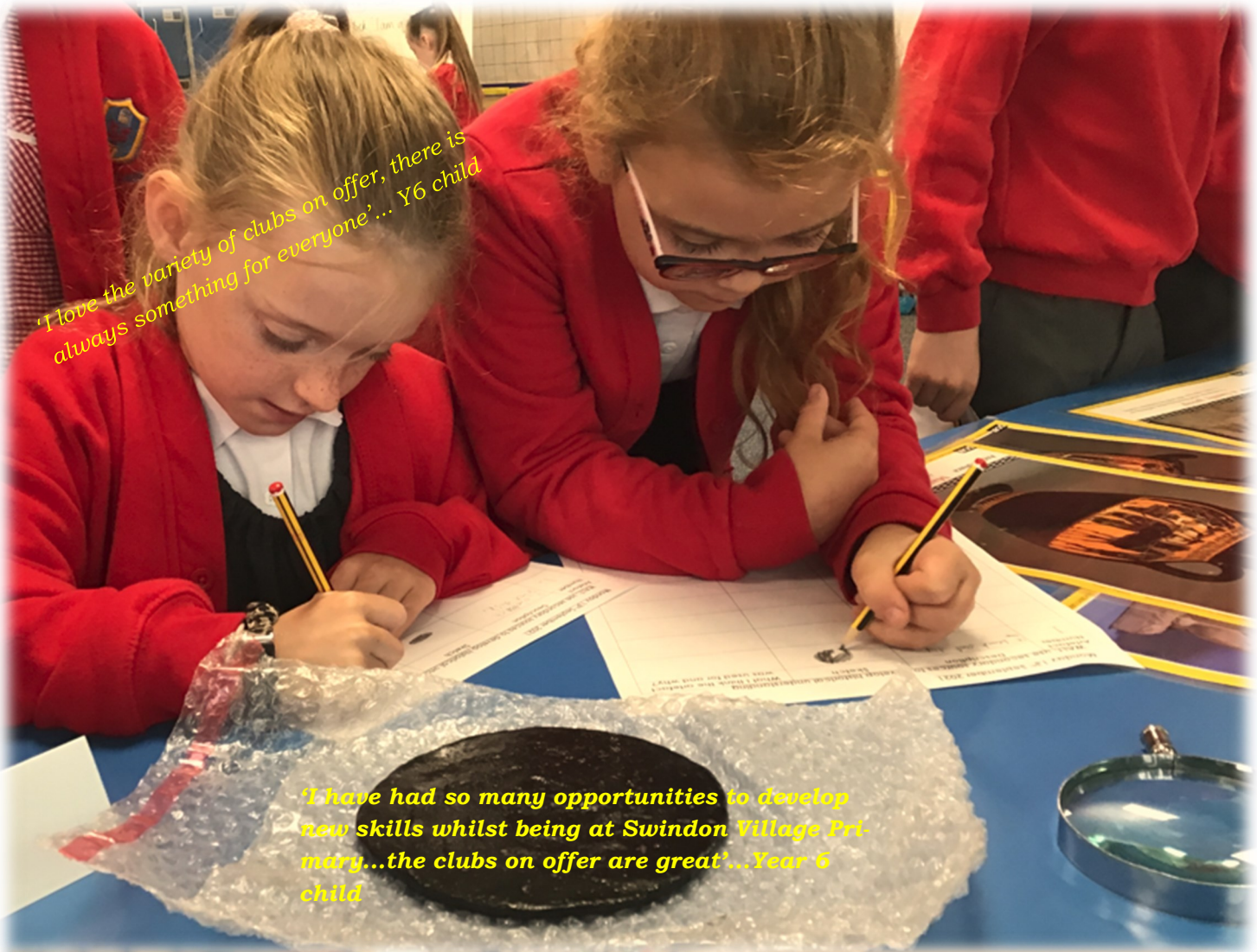
Extra-Curricular Activities

Numerous activities take place depending on the time of year. Staff and parents voluntarily run a variety of activities which include:

Art & Craft	Choir	Football
Athletics	Cookery	French
Cricket	Dancing	Gymnastics
Ball Skills	Cross Country	ICT
Baseball	Dance	Netball
Board Games	Drama	Pottery

We are grateful to all members of staff who run a club as we see it as a vital aspect of the school. Clubs enrich the curriculum and give children a further chance to extend and develop their talents. A timetable is sent home each term and children interested in a club return forms to the office.





'I love the variety of clubs on offer, there is always something for everyone' ... Y6 child

'I have had so many opportunities to develop new skills whilst being at Swindon Village Primary...the clubs on offer are great'...Year 6 child



School Day

Gates opened: 8:35am - 8:50am

Morning: 8.50am to 12.30pm

Lunch: 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Afternoon: 1:30pm - 3:20pm

Total School hours per week = 32.5hrs

(this is calculated from Registration to the end of the day and includes break + lunch)

Crossing Wardens are on duty in Church Road and Wymans





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Seasons, Swindon Village Park and the Village Hall carparks are a great place to park in the mornings and for pick-up. These are free and are only a few minutes away from school.

Cars must not park on the bus stop or zig-zag lines outside the school gates as these must be kept clear at all times for safety reasons.

Swindon Village Primary School

*Church Road
Swindon Village
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9QP*